

One early observer noted that shipwrecks, making it possible for get goods from the East and to sell products made here. By the 1870s, this access increased as railroads came to town. Stillwater boomed as a diversified business center, with agriculture as well as manufacture turning from windmills to steam engines, from flour to furniture to waste from industry. Even the waste from industry created its own jobs, as the Stillwater saw dramatic change in the early 1900s when the lumber industry collapsed, well as the appearance of the tourism as its new economic driver. The redesign of the riverfront into Lowell Park in 1911 marked the transition from an industrial to a recreational focus for the city. The construction of the lift bridge created a gateway for drivers brought tourists from around the region. It also created a connection to land donated to the city across the river to serve as Kolmar Park (E), which remains one of the prettiest parks in the city.

From Lumber to Tourism

Stillwater's early days, heavy rains frequently led to flooding in Stillwater, crews living in the fall, logging high water. In the fall, loggers sent north to log over the winter. In the spring, when the river level rose with the rain, loggers called "river pigs" drove logs down the river. "Boat tenders"—loggers who worked out of the static's earliest and most important log storage and handling areas. Here workers sorted, sorted, measured, floated millions of logs and floated millions of logs down the river to Stillwater's mills.

River Town

Stillwater became a pictureque downtowner to Stillwater's mills, and floated millions of logs down the Mississippi River to the St. Croix River. Access to water transportation also supported businesses and

From Lumber to Tourism

One early observer noted that ravines and gullies were not an ideal setting for a town, but a "perfect situation for swallows." Within a few years, John McKusick and his partners opened the town's first operating mill. The town grew.

The map illustrates the St. Croix Overlook area, featuring the St. Croix River flowing through the center. Key locations include:

- A**: St. Croix Overlook: near Lookout Trail and Peabody Ave N (1.3 mile from Courthouse).
- B**: Pioneer Park: 725 Pioneer Park Trail (0.7 miles walk from Courthouse).
- C**: St. Croix Boom Site: approximately 9837 Bergestein, Mortz, Shady Mill and Warhouse; access from 801 St. Croix Trail (0.7 miles walk from Courthouse).
- D**: St. Croix Boom Site: approachable by 9837 Bergestein, Mortz, Shady Mill and Warhouse; access from 801 St. Croix Trail (0.7 miles walk from Courthouse).
- E**: Kollmeyer Park: across the lift bridge, along the St. Croix River (boat access only).

Modern infrastructure includes Highway 36, Highway 95, Highway 35/64, and the Bayport. The map also shows Oak Park, Higlins, Stillwater, and Lake McKusick.

Legend:

- Cultural Landscape (Yellow Box)
- District (Blue Box)
- Entrepreneurs and Settlers (Red Box)
- Genealogical Evidence (Green Box)
- Historic Recorders of Settlement (Orange Box)
- No Longer Existing Properties (Grey Box)
- Loop Trail (Yellow Line)
- Courthouse (Red Star)



Storied Landscapes



c. 1910



ca. 1872

Secrets in the Landscape

People have long used Stillwater's landscape to their advantage and shaped it to their needs. From the cool caves of the limestone bluffs to the steady river, discover the relationships between the landscape and the history of the city as you explore hidden features of Stillwater's Cultural Landscape District.

For more information

This guide was developed by Minnesota Department of Transportation, available online at www.dot.state.mn.us/.

To learn more about Stillwater's past, visit the Washington County Historical Society (www.wchsmn.org) and the St. Croix River Crossing Project (www.dot.state.mn.us/stcroixcrossing).

The Stillwater Heritage Preservation Commission (www.ci.stillwater.mn.us/hpc) conducts community history, local preservation outreach, and public education activities. Other local HPC's can be found through the State Historic Preservation Office (www.mnhs.org/shpo/local/hpc.php).

To find information about restaurants and accommodations, contact Stillwater Convention and Visitors' Bureau (www.discoverstillwater.com).

The publication of this field guide fulfills requests from the St. Croix River Crossing Project.

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First People *adaptation to and use of the natural resources of an area.* Stillwater's story provides a particularity clear expression of that interplay of place and people, but many of those stories are built on this tour—buildings, ravines, gutters, and crumbling walls—*you will begin to find stories in details that may otherwise seem insignificant.* Practice being a landscape detective, please note that some properties on the tour are private and should only be viewed from the public sidewalk.



Secrets in the Landscape

Uncovering Stillwater's Hidden History

A WALKING TOUR

